

ORNL Footprint Reduction and Boundary Sites ROD

Scope: The Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Footprint Reduction (FR) and Boundary Sites Record of Decision (ROD) project contains two separate tasks that will be implemented under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. The project objective is to:

- Evaluate remaining ORNL FR sites (that have not received a No Further Investigation (NFI) determination) in order to obtain an NFI for non-contaminated sites;
- Prepare a Remedial Investigation (RI)/Feasibility Study (FS), Proposed Plan, and ROD for regulatory approval, including evaluation of public comments, to select a remedy for contaminated ORNL boundary sites and for any remaining evaluated ORNL FR areas that did not qualify for an NFI and may require remediation.

Although much of the Oak Ridge Reservation (ORR) has not been impacted by previous Department of Energy (DOE) activities, without investigation it is difficult to discern non-contaminated parcels of land. Footprint reduction is a process developed by DOE to study the large areas of the ORR that are believed to be free of surface contamination. Regulatory approval of an NFI determination has already been obtained for most FR sites. Boundary sites are those potentially contaminated areas at ORNL that are outside the general extent of contamination covered by the Bethel Valley (BV) Interim Record of Decision (ROD)¹ and Melton Valley Interim ROD².

The remedy selected by the ORNL Boundary Sites ROD will be implemented under the ORNL Soils and Sediments project. The ORNL FR and ORNL Boundary Sites ROD project is planned by the Integrated Facility Disposition Program (IFDP) at an estimated cost of approximately \$8M.

Environmental Risk and Principal Threat Source Material Rating: Low

- The remaining ORNL FR sites have been identified as candidates for evaluation because hazardous substance contamination due to past DOE activities is likely not present.
- ORNL boundary sites include legacy research experiments and former dump sites. At a number of sites contaminated with radioisotopes for past research purposes, radioactive decay has occurred over the years, resulting in little or no detectable contamination being present. None of the ORNL boundary sites are known to be highly toxic or highly mobile sources of contaminant migration.
- Investigations conducted as part of this project will determine the nature and extent of contamination at remaining evaluated ORNL non-NFI FR areas and boundary sites.

Other Prioritization Factors:

Institutional controls are in place to limit access and exposure to any contamination present within the ORNL controlled boundaries.

Overall Prioritization: Low

The overall prioritization of the ORNL FR and Boundary Sites ROD project is **Low**.

The information presented in this fact sheet is preliminary and will be refined during Critical Decision-2/3 development.

¹ Record of Decision for Interim Actions in Bethel Valley Watershed, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, DOE/OR/01-1862&D4, DOE 2002

² Record of Decision for Interim Actions for the Melton Valley Watershed at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, DOE/OR/01-1826&D3, DOE 2000

January 2009

For more information, please contact the DOE public affairs office at (865) 576-0885.

